BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

Happy Valentine's Day

TEMP Max 30 | Min 18 | Humidity 46% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 71,555 | Nifty 21,743 | Gold 61,576 | Silver 69,812 | Dollar 83.09 | Euro 89.06 | GBP 104.74

Official misused authority to let private entity profiteer from parking lot at revenue dept HQ, complaint says

PARKING LOSS

FIR filed at Halasuru Gate police station names 3 persons

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state revenue department is expected to collect tax on time to facilitate funds for the government's developmental works.

It is authorised to penalise land owners who do not pay tax on time.

Ironically, officials working at the revenue department's head office have failed to engage a contractor for maintaining the parking lot on the premises even after four years.

The failure of the revenue authorities concerned has resulted in Halasuru Gate police - based on a complaint filed by Vijayaraghava Marathe - registering a first information report (FIR) against three persons, including the manager at the revenue department head office - Kandaya Bhavan - on KG Road.

The police registered the FIR on February 11 against Sudhakar R, Ravi, and Anil Kumar, manager of revenue department at Kandaya Bhavan, under the Sections 34, 120B, 409, 419, 420, and 468 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860.

According to the FIR, Marathe stated in his complaint that the revenue department head at Kandaya Bhavan helped Sudhakar of RGS Enterprises to collect parking fees of Rs 20 for a two-wheeler and Rs 50 per four-wheeler for the last four years.

KAUSHIK JN

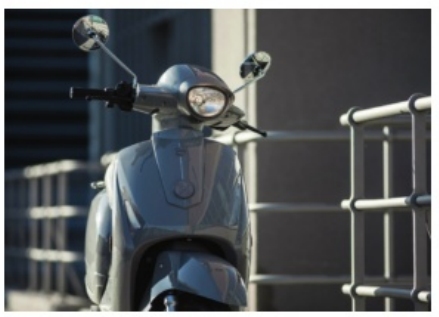
> "I met the revenue officials seeking details of the parking licence issued to the contractor. Later, I lodged a complaint... — Vijayaraghava Marathe, complainant

Marathe alleged that the revenue official misused his authority and caused a loss to the department by colluding with Sudhakar. The complainant demanded the police take suitable action against the accused for causing loss to the revenue department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Electric wheels

370-odd new two-wheeler EVs sold/registered daily in state between April 2023 and February 2024



| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The sale of electric two-wheelers in Karnataka has increased by nearly 12% in the ongoing financial year as compared with 2022-23. Between April 2023 and February so far, over 1.15 lakh new two-wheelers were sold or registered in the state, amounting to nearly 370 new vehicles sold or registered every day. Last year, a little over 1.02 lakh new vehicles were sold.

With this figure, Karnataka has surpassed the national growth rate in the electric two-wheeler market by a big margin.

The national electric two-wheeler growth rate is less than 1%. While a little over 7.28 lakh electric two-wheelers were sold in India in 2022-23, as many as 7,34,760 vehicles have been sold or registered this financial year so far.

However, mobility experts said the state is hardly on track to meet its EV target, which is EV sales accounting for 30% of total private vehicles by 2030. They are of the view that consumers could be provided with monetary benefits such as free parking, toll exemptions, reductions in vehicle registration taxes, etc., to improve the adoption rate. Negative opinions among the public regarding perceived fees and perceived risks have a considerable negative influence on electric two-wheeler adoption.

"As per a recent study conducted by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Talking about AI

Michael Spence, Nobel Laureate in Economics, will feature in the Azim Premji University public lecture series in an event to be held in Bengaluru. Spence, Co-Chair of the Commission on Global Economic Transformation at the Institute for New Economic Thinking will be in conversation with Anurag Behar, Chief Executive Officer, Azim Premji Foundation on "Artificial Intelligence in the age of uncertainty." **Where: Bangalore International Centre; When: February 15, 5-6.30 pm**

02 Crows visit

Kaakadosha is a Kannada play that draws inspiration from Henrik Ibsen's 'Ghosts'. Anupama Chandrasekhar has crafted the play "When the Crows Visit" is based on a true incident from 2012. Venkatesh Prasad has translated it into Kannada directed "Kaakadosha'. The English original premiered at Kiln Theatre, London, in October 2019, directed by Artistic Director Indhu Rubasingham. The play is being staged in an Indian language for the first time. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar When February 22 and 23; Time: 7.30 pm**

03 Dance of love

Prepare to be swept away on a romantic journey this Valentine's Day at Magique Koramangala, where DJ JK will be setting the stage on love! Embark on a journey to Love Island and immerse yourself in an atmosphere brimming with love, laughter, and vibrant rhythms. DJ JK will be serving up a scintillating mix of Bollywood, commercial, and UK Punjabi tunes, guaranteed to keep you and your beloved dancing all night long. **Where: Magique Koramangala; When: February 14; 8 pm onwards**

For heart's sake

Members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India during an awareness campaign to encourage people to go vegan in Bengaluru on the eve of Valentine's Day

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

RTE mapping begins, but so much more is needed

For example: Awareness campaigns for parents on admissions under RTE act and basic facilities at government schools

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Commissioner for School Education has issued a circular directing the deputy directors (administration) to take measures for mapping government and aided schools across the state for facilitating admission of students under Right to Education (RTE) Act.

The Commissioner has directed the authorities to take measures for mapping all schools, except schools maintained by minority institutions and the schools that are closed or those shut down due to the stay order from the court. The circular also made it clear to exempt the government and aided LKG and UKG schools.

"Arrangements have to be made for online registration of applications seeking admission under Section 12(1)(B) RTE Act. Mapping of schools should be completed before inviting applications for admission under the RTE Act," the Commissioner for School Education said in the circular.

As per the Section 12 of RTE Act, a school shall provide free and compulsory education to all children admitted therein. The circular has also directed the authorities to collect data on orphans, HIV children, and others and upload it after verifying the required documents. "Collecting details on Aadhaar cards of the child, father or mother, income and caste certificates is a must. Registration can be done at the offices of Deputy Director or Zonal Education Officer free of cost. Registration can also be done at Bangalore One Centers in Bengaluru, Karnataka One Centres at districts and Atalji Janasnehi Kendras at taluks," the circular stated.

It has also made it clear that the child seeking admission for Class 1 needs to complete six years by June 1 and those children seeking admission for LKG need to complete four years.

Awareness programmes

While welcoming the circular to make arrangements for mapping government and aided schools, RTE activists and child rights activists opine that the education department should organise awareness programmes for the benefit of parents in rural areas and taluks. "Most of the parents from economically weaker families do not know how to file and where to register applications for admission of their children under the RTE Act. The education department must enable parents to know about the RTE Act and about the schools where they can seek admission for their children," said Nagasimha G Rao of Child Rights Trust.

Lakshmiprasanna HK, a member of RTE Task Force and member of Child Welfare Committee, said that aided schools are better than the government schools. "Though the standard of amenities at government schools has improved, shortage of teachers is a cause of concern," said Lakshmiprasanna.

Terming the circular rubbish, C Suresh Kumar, a RTE activist who filed a petition in the Supreme Court, said that many parents do not like to seek admission in government schools for their children.

"I came to know that around 18,000 applications were submitted seeking admission at government aided schools last year but only 3,000 children got admission last year," said Suresh Kumar.

According to a city-based RTE activist, most parents are hesitant to send their children to government schools

> **"Around 18,000 applications were submitted for admission at govt-aided schools last year but only 3,000 got admission**
> – Suresh Kumar, activist

CATCH-2,681 SITUATION FOR TRAFFIC COPS

Despite discounts, second chances, warnings, 2681 violators yet to pay penalties of over Rs 50,000 each

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

It's a Catch-2,681 situation for the traffic police as they strive to locate that many individuals who have been evading the police despite accruing penalties exceeding Rs 50,000. Despite being offered two opportunities to settle their pending fines, even with a 50% discount, 2,681 traffic violators have failed to comply. Now the police have decided to undertake home visits to remind these individuals to promptly pay up.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) MN Anucheth said, "We have compiled a detailed list of such traffic violators. For those whose addresses have changed, we are accessing their details through the Vaahan database and reaching out to them."

A senior police official disclosed that traffic fine violators across all traffic police station limits in the city have been identified, and a comprehensive list has been compiled, cataloging those with outstanding fines exceeding Rs 50,000 against their vehicles. Over the past 10 days, 120 individuals have already been identified, and penalties have been recovered.

However, the police encountered a hurdle as some violators had transferred ownership of their vehicles to others. It is noteworthy that when a vehicle is sold to another individual, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) must be obtained from the traffic police confirming the absence of pending fines.

Currently, the police are actively searching for such violators and issuing notices. For those who still haven't settled their fines, cases are being filed in courts.

Besides these, police are also stressing that traffic fines must be settled within two weeks of receiving the challan. Alok Kumar ADGP (Training, Traffic, and Road Safety) had earlier stated that penalties should be paid within a fortnight. "Earlier, a 50% concession was provided twice.

> **"For those whose addresses have changed, we are accessing their details through the Vaahan database and will reach out**

However, there is no proposal to give any more extension. To address this, notices will be delivered to doorsteps for traffic violators, and if the penalty remains unpaid within two weeks or if there are five more cases, the police will visit homes and compel payment," Kumar had said.

Last year, Bengaluru cops had offered a 50% concession for clearing all pending fines. Before that, cops were going from house to house collecting fines from repeat offenders. In 2020, there was Rs 150 crore pending in challans.

A senior police official added, "We were looking for those who have more than five violations to their name. A list of such rule-breakers has been handed over to the local police stations to collect fines from them."

Minors not allowed

Law enforcement officers are cautioning individuals against allowing minors to get behind the wheel. Recently, a Shivamogga court imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on a woman for permitting her 17-year-old son to ride a bike.

Kumar issued a warning to parents, emphasising that Section 199A of the Motor Vehicle Act stipulates a penalty of Rs 25,000 and a maximum prison sentence of three years for guardians or vehicle owners who permit minors (who do not possess a learner's licence) to drive, in addition to the suspension of vehicle registration for one year.

Furthermore, the minor in question will be ineligible to obtain a driver's licence until reaching the age of 25.

Tracking the unauthorised cable guy

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Soon Mahadevapura's BBMP control room will conduct night rounds to catch offenders involved in unauthorised road cutting and laying of OFC cables.

After reviving the control room for Mahadevapura, BBMP plans to set up a control room for meeting emergencies within the zone. Just a few months ago, a woman and child were electrocuted after stepping on a live BESCOM wire. Activists have pointed out that the disarray of OFC cables and wires lying around is one of the reasons for someone stepping on the live wire. Following the incident, Whitefield residents have been conducting drives to audit footpaths and flag violations in a bid to make them safer.

BBMP has now floated a tender for setting up the Providing Emergency Relief Task Force Team to Mahadevapura Zonal Control that will be available all through the year for Rs 75 lakh. It's conventional for BBMP to set up an emergency relief task force at the subvisional level during monsoon but these would be for the entire zone.

The task force will have with it the required machinery for carrying out several types of emergency relief work. "This task force part of the control will be responsible for all emergency work in the zone. After setting up the new task force, they will be available all year night and day. During the night, they will conduct rounds to find offenders involved in the illegal cutting of roads and laying of OFC cables," said a senior BBMP official.

Mahadevapura is also home to a lot of IT and multinational companies and often its roads suffer from traffic congestion.

Bill on 60% Kannada in signboards tabled in Assembly

A bill mandating 60 per cent use of Kannada in signboards of businesses and establishments was tabled in Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024, amends the 2022 Act.

The amendment is to make a provision to ensure that the name boards of commercial, industrial and business undertakings, trusts, counseling centres, hospitals, laboratories, amusement centres and hotels, among others, functioning with the approval and sanction of the government or local authorities, display 60 per cent in Kannada language.

Kannada shall be displayed in the upper half of the name board, the bill in its statement of objects and reasons said.

The bill also amends the Act to appoint the Director, Directorate of Kannada and Culture as the Member, and the Secretary, Kannada Development Authority to be the Convener of the "State Level Committee", that will act as an enforcement authority for implementing the official language.

The Karnataka Cabinet on January five gave its approval to an ordinance to amend the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act that mandates 60 per cent use of the state's language in signages.

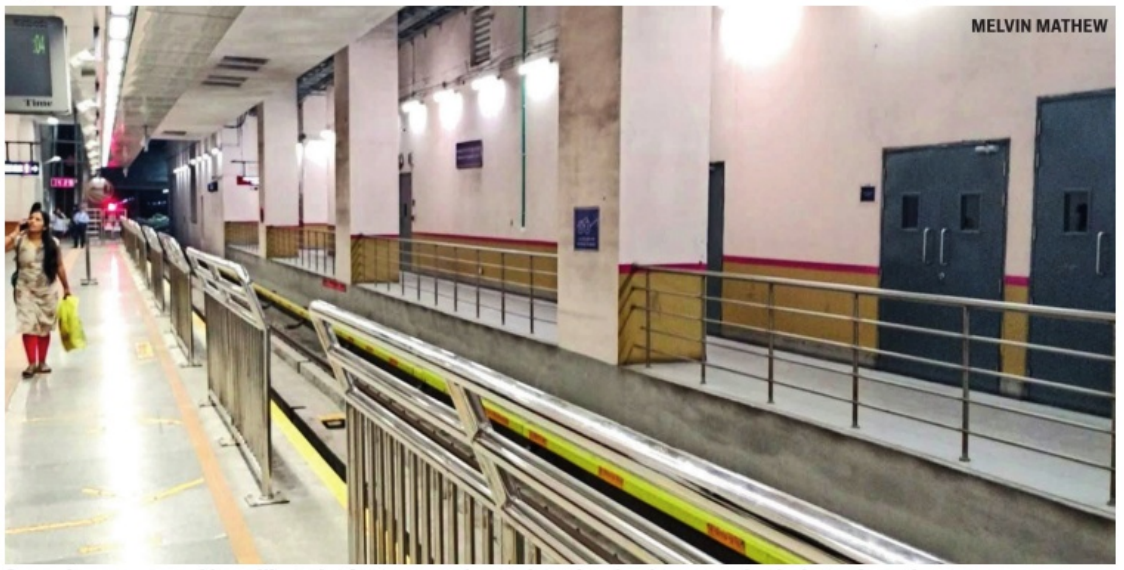
As of now, the law requires the use of Kannada language in the upper half of signboards, displaying the names of businesses. The government had decided to take the ordinance route in the wake of violent protests by pro-Kannada organisations targeting some businesses for not giving prominence to Kannada. PTI

BMRCL moving forward with its barricade plan

With good feedback to barriers put in 2 platforms of Majestic Metro station, authorities now ready to set up these safety precautions at other platforms

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR


MELVIN MATHEW

Security personnel handling platform crowds say barricades have made their task easier

Metro authorities will be taking the steel barricades project further. Currently, barricades have been installed on platforms one and two of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Majestic metro station and BMRCL plans to set it up on platforms three and four as well.

The decision has come after security personnel designated to handle the platforms have expressed that since the installation of the steel barricades, the task has become easier. After three recent incidents of commuters jumping onto the electrified metro tracks, with one being reported as a suicide attempt, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) made immediate plans to install steel railings as a safety measure.

However, Yash Sugandhi, a citizen, had posted a video last Friday that has since been making rounds on social media, showing an instance of non-alignment between the doors of the trains and the barricades, causing inconvenience to commuters who alight and board the coaches.

Executive Director, Operations and Maintenance, AS Shankar, has clarified that the incident was a one-time occurrence. Train operators have the ability to adjust the placement of the train on the platform according to the steel barricades by looking into a mirror placed in front of the tracks.

On the other hand, few commuters have noted that while the steel railings help, introducing platform screen doors (PSD) is necessary.

PSD helps in curbing dangerous incidents like passengers falling onto the tracks by reducing the chances of their ability to lean over the platform edge or move around beyond the areas designated for passengers to wait prior to the arrival of trains. A frequent commuter who uses the Majestic metro station to interchange between the Green and Purple lines said, "The steel barricades certainly help the security staff as they now have to keep oversight only over the open spaces. However, instances of commuters accidentally falling, especially children, can still occur. PSD must be installed to curb accidents entirely."

"The barricades help the security staff as they now have to keep oversight only on the open spaces. But, accidental falls can still occur – Metro user

As many as 13 underground metro stations are slated to receive full-height PSDs while 37 elevated, or at-grade stations, in the aforementioned metro projects will be equipped with half-height Platform Screen Gates (PSGs). The first PSD will be installed at Konappana Agrahara station in Electronics City. The station on the RV Road-Bommasandra Yellow Line is expected to commence operations this year.

Metros in other cities such as Chennai and Delhi have already adopted PSD.

At present, BMRCL solely relies on the guards stationed on metro platforms to ensure that commuters are not attempting to jump onto the tracks or approach areas that may endanger their safety. They are also provided with other responsibilities such as making sure the throngs of commuters form a single file before boarding the train, helping those who alight the train.

On 5 January, a commuter jumped in front of a train at Jalahalli metro station around 7:12 pm leading him to be grievously injured. The man was shifted to a private hospital nearby. The incident had resulted in disruptions on the operations of the Green Line until 8 pm.

Contractors' group welcomes clearing of ₹600 cr in pending bills

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association on Tuesday welcomed the clearing of Rs 600 crore worth of pending bills of 1,054 small contractors in the Public Works Department. The association president D Kempanna, however, reiterated his stand that the "package system" -- dividing contracts into different sections and allotting them to various contractors -- was leading to corruption. "All the pending bills of 1,054 contractors have been cleared," Kempanna told a press conference.

He said the association has appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar to clear the pending bills in various government departments including the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the city civic body.

"Our struggle is continuing against the package system. We are exploring the legal options regarding the pending bills in the police housing corporation," Kempanna said. The octogenarian said: "We demand that the package system should be abolished. This is leading to corruption." Kempanna alleged last week that the practice of 40 per cent kickbacks on government contracts continues even under the Congress regime.

Association president reiterates they are still firm on their stance against package system that they say leads to graft

Accusing officials in the state government of rampant corruption, he said, earlier (during the previous BJP regime) public representatives were demanding bribes, now it's their turn. "Corruption is on in Karnataka by the officials. Till now, no MLA, MP or Minister has asked us for money. Earlier MLAs used to ask for a specified amount to give us a contract for work, that is not the situation now. Now the officials come and ask -- give money, if you want work," Kempanna said.

File photo of a protest by contractors demanding their dues

The association under the leadership of Kempanna earlier alleged "harassment" by ministers, elected representatives and others during the previous BJP regime, accusing them of demanding 40 per cent commission for awarding contracts and clearing bills, and had even written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard. During the 2023 assembly polls, the Congress made the association's charge a major campaign issue to dub the BJP as being "corrupt".

The "package system" is being followed to take up projects in all departments, Kempanna said. "This is being done with the intention to keep away local contractors and favour contractors from neighboring states. Due to the package system, local, small-medium contractors of the state are facing problems as they are not getting the work," he said. – PTI

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Branching out

Sultanpalya

Tree branches need to be cut at 3rd Cross, Sultanpalya, Hanumanthappa Layout, Sania Retreat Apartment, RT Nagar, as they are too dangerous at this time of the year.

Cut it out

KR Puram

An MLA's cutout is placed at a main signal area that has CCTV cameras, in TC Palya, KR Puram. This is despite all the court orders banning the banners. Civic officials don't intend to remove these eyesores.

Litterbugged

Shanthinagar

There is a major littering issue at 4th Cross, Church Road, Shanthinagar, despite the presence of a CCTV camera. Concerns have been raised about the failure to address this basic problem, contrary to leaders' claims.

Calls to allot seed funding for Land Transport Authority gain traction

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the run-up to the Karnataka Budget 2023-24, mobility experts have stressed on the need for the government to allot seed funding for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA). At present, the city has multiple transport and land use agencies which function independently, leading to a lack of coordination in planning and execution. While the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in December 2022, adopted the BMLTA Act, it has largely remained only on paper.

According to the act, the authority will be looking over the regulation of development, operation, maintenance, monitoring and supervision of urban mobility holistically. The authority will be headed by the Chief Minister while ministers for Bengaluru City Development and Transport will act as its vice-chairmen.

Along with this, other heads of public utilities will be assigned positions with experts in the field and academicians.

Srinivas Alavilli, a public transport enthusiast, said that the allocation of seed funding to the BMLTA is most urgent. He noted that since the BMLTA has not been constituted, the city does not have a clear understanding of the issues faced in terms of mobility.

"Without the BMLTA, we don't even know what the issues are and decisions will be made without data; that is not good use of public money," he said.

Shreya Gadepalli, an urban mobility expert and founder of the UrbanWorks Institute, had previously told Bangalore Mirror that with the BMLTA Bill, the transport budget should also be unified.

"Crores of rupees are being spent on constructing elevated roads and metro, but Bangalore remains stuck in traffic," she had said, adding that a unified outcome-based budget will ensure that only the most effective solutions make the cut.

A city-based expert said that despite the act mandating the establishment of the authority in a span of six months of the notification, it has not been constituted yet, showing that the issue requires immediate attention.

Another expert noted that the top-down approach with the Chief Minister as chairperson must be reviewed.

Other demands

Sustainable Transportation Fund: Create a dedicated fund to prioritise decongestion by reinforcing bus transport, cycling, Non Motorised Transport
Bus Stop facilities: Provide sufficient budget to ensure bus stops have proper shelters Employee welfare: Fair compensation and infrastructural facilities like restrooms
Taxation: Introduce polluters pay principle and add additional registration fee on four-wheelers, congestion tax

Time to up fleet size

Greenpeace India and Slum Dwellers Federation submitted a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah demanding an increase in the BMTC fleet size and a dedicated public bus transport fund. They said that the current fleet size of BMTC which is less than 6,200 buses is highly inadequate to meet the demands of nearly 30 lakh daily BMTC commuters.

"The Shakti scheme is an excellent initiative by the government. This scheme needs to be extended to include all women and transgender persons. Prioritising investment in a strong public transport system contributes to alleviating Bangalore's traffic issues and reducing carbon emissions, thus contributing to build a sustainable city that is more inclusive of everyone's needs," said Sharat MS, Campaigner at Greenpeace India.

Besides this, they have urged the CM to dedicate a separate public bus transport fund.

TEACHER'S PROTECTOR PUTTANNA
PUTTANNA, who has contested for the Legislative Council election from Bangalore Teachers Constituency, has been hard working day and night to the solution for the problems of teachers, teachers community and educational institutions for the past 30 years, as a representative of Bangalore Teachers Constituency in the Legislative Council for 4 consecutive times inside the House and outside the House, as a voice of teachers' self-esteem & who work for the welfare of teachers, they are requested to give your FIRST PREFERENCE VOTE FOR PUTTANNA and make them the winner with the highest margin of votes.
G.Padmavathi
Ex- Mayor, BBMP
Vice Chairman, KPCC
S.H. Padmaraj
Ex - Corporator, BBMP & Founder,
Nethaji Subash Chandra Bose Stadium
G.Krishnamurthy
Ex - Corporator
BBMP
Vijay Kumar
Ex - Corporator
BBMP
N. Venkatesh
President, Ram Mandir
Block Congress
T.N. Radhakrishna
President, Rajajinagar
Block Congress
VOTING DATE: 16.02.2024, FRIDAY | VOTING TIME: 8 AM TO 4 PM

Seems like Karnataka is winning forest blaze race

Not yet summer, but Between Feb 5 and 11, state logs 35 major forest fires

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

File photo of fire & emergency services personnel trying to bring a blaze in Chamundi Hills under control

According to the Forest Survey of India's (FSI) latest reports, Karnataka is currently recording the highest number of large forest fire events across the country. Between February 5 and 11, the state has already logged 35 major forest fire incidents.

Other states following Karnataka are Andhra Pradesh with 21 such events, Madhya Pradesh with 14 large fire incidents, and Uttarakhand and Kerala with 12 such incidents each.

Karnataka has also recorded the highest number of fire alerts in the given period. Since February 5, the state has recorded as many as 626 fire alerts using spatial information through SNPP. In the given period, Andhra Pradesh had 298 fire alerts, followed by Madhya Pradesh recording 212 alerts, Maharashtra logged 195 fire alerts and Uttarakhand had 159 alerts through SNPP.

Experts say the high number of large fire incidents can be attributed to a combination of factors such as extreme weather conditions, and disgruntled villagers, along with better preparedness, monitoring, and accountability on the part of the department.

They opine since the state's forests are prone to high forest fire incidents every year, the department has to be in a state of high alert with fire spotters posted in vulnerable areas. Controlled burning of fire lines during winter is critical to fighting forest fires and has to be completed by mid-January, when there will be moisture in the vegetation. "Prevention of fires, vital for forest and wildlife conservation, is best achieved by reaching out to local communities and hiring sufficient numbers of people as fire watchers. Aside from clearing fire lines, the actual deployment of fire watchers with forest staff at strategic locations at watch towers, constituting response teams to put out fires is at the core of a preventive strategy. All civil works should be stopped during the fire season," said a wildlife conservationist.

Conservationists and activists underline that long-term loss to wildlife and conservation efforts that stem from habitat degradation is immense. If the ground fire destroys vegetation, the forage for herbivores is destroyed, inedible weeds like lantana and eupatorium take over the forests and the population of prey animals dwindles, which impacts the carnivores.

"In addition, smaller mammals, ground-nesting birds, insects, slow-moving reptiles and other wildlife species are destroyed and valuable leaf litter accumulated on the forest floor that acts as natural manure for trees and plants are burnt, leading to fodder shortage in forests," added the conservationist.

According to Joseph Hoover, a former State Board for Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust, since most of the forest fire incidents are deliberate, by disgruntled villagers, the department must beef up and improve its engagement activities at local levels.

> **"Prevention of fires is best achieved by reaching out to local communities and hiring sufficient numbers of fire watchers** –Conservationist

"A regular coordination with local panchayat and communities will go a long way. KFD should look at building better rapport with villagers and involve local youth in fire management. Some activities are being done by the department, they need to be increased," said Hoover.

From B'luru, all roads lead to Mysuru, Nandi Hills

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

According to Uber's annual 'Riding with Intercity' report released on Tuesday, Mysuru and Nandi Hills are the two most-preferred getaway destinations for residents of Bengaluru. The report has also revealed that the Bengaluru-Kolar route is among the top three inter-city routes in India.

The report has also shown that Indians chose to spend their weekends by making gateways to other nearby cities. A majority of the trips were booked on Saturdays, followed by Sundays and Fridays, highlighting the trend of weekend outstation travel.

Cab hailing service's report reveals B'luru to Kolar route is in top intercity routes

The report has revealed that 2023 saw the most number of intercity travel trips booked on the platform. "The rapid pace of development of the national and State highway network in India over the past few years has significantly reduced travel times, while also making road journeys more comfortable. These factors have resulted in a trend where more people have been opting to cover longer distances by road," the report said.

Other revelations show that Mumbai residents opted to visit Pune and Nashik, while those in Delhi chose to spend their gateway in the historical architecture hotspots of Agra and Jaipur.

Intercity trips on Uber can be booked for round trips lasting up to five days, where customers can retain their Uber and the driver, adding stops as they go. The number of intercity rides being reserved in advance went up five times in 2023, according to the report.

ASHA workers unite for recognition, honorarium

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Protest by ASHA workers at Freedom Park on Tuesday

In a display of unity, over 20,000 Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers gathered at Freedom Park as part of a two-day Vidhana Soudha Chalo program organised by the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta Asha Karyakarteyara Sangha, affiliated with AIUTUC. The protest, which began on Tuesday during the day and extended into the night, was a platform for demands for improved working conditions and recognition of the vital role played by ASHA workers.

ASHA workers raised several crucial issues, including the delinking of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal from the honorarium payment process, fixing a fair honorarium of Rs.15,000 by both Central and State Governments, ending the insistence on mobile-based work without incentives, recognising ASHA workers as formal employees with minimum wages, provident fund (PF), Employees' State Insurance (ESI), and gratuity benefits.

The secretary of the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta Asha Karyakartheyara Sangha expressed frustration over the government's failure to address these concerns despite repeated meetings with officials. She highlighted the financial losses suffered by ASHA workers due to RCH portal-related problems, emphasising that these workers, numbering over 40,000, are also women deserving of consideration.

> **"Government officials in AC rooms cannot comprehend the challenges faced by ASHA workers** –Roopa Hassan, social activist

Roopa Hassan, a writer and social activist, echoed the sentiment that government officials in air-conditioned rooms cannot comprehend the challenges faced by ASHA workers, who have shouldered family responsibilities for 15 years. She urged the government to recognise the genuine struggles of ASHA workers rather than treating their efforts as mere "show."

Political figures, including K Radhakrishna and K Uma, emphasised on the historic role of women workers in movements like International Women's Day and May Day. They called for solidarity and inspiration from successful movements, such as the recent farmers' protests against contentious farm laws in Delhi.

Despite assurances from Health Minister Dinesh Gundurao, pledging Rs.7,000 monthly, free mobiles, and incentives, the ASHA workers deemed the proposals insufficient. They declared that the movement would persist until their demands were addressed, calling for the intervention of the Chief Minister to resolve the ongoing issues.

Treated water going down the drain

BWSSB spends a lot to treat 1,381.5 MLD of wastewater, of which 1,200 MLD is available, but only 750 MLD is used

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

File photo of the Nayandanahalli lake being filled with treated water, from a BWSSB treatment plant

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) invests crores of rupees in treating water for consumption, yet 30% of the treated water is literally going down the drain. As per BWSSB officials, the city generates 1,440 MLD of wastewater every day. With 33 sewage treatment plants in the city, they treat 1,381.5 MLD of water, of which 1,200 MLD of treated water is made available. While various agencies utilise 750 MLD of treated water, the remaining water is being wasted.

BWSSB is generating revenue of Rs 36.05 lakh by selling 750 MLD of treated water. An additional 26 STPs are under construction, and their operation will result in an increased quantity of treated water. This treated water is distributed through tanker services, with BWSSB charging Rs 60 for 1,000 litres.

Despite this, many people, particularly those involved in construction, are spending significant amounts to obtain tanker water with fresh water for construction purposes, which is essentially a waste of pure water. BWSSB officials mentioned that the treated water is being supplied to fill tanks in neighbouring districts such as Kolar and Chikkaballapur. Approximately 308 MLD of treated water from the Koramangala-Challaghatta valley is also being utilised. A BWSSB official stated, "Despite the presence of numerous government agencies and industries in the city, they are not demonstrating any interest in utilising treated water."

> **There are numerous industries and govt agencies, but they are not showing interest in using treated water** –Official

Vrishabhavathi plans

Plans to rejuvenate the Vrishabhavathi Valley remain stagnant. Despite politicians' promises to revive the valley every monsoon, the proposal is shelved once the rains subside, leaving the valley to languish in sewage. Once a vital river link in the city, the valley has now been reduced to a cesspool of pollution.

The Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) previously submitted a comprehensive report for the river's revival. However, no tangible progress has been made to date. NEERI proposed various short-term and long-term measures, but these suggestions remain unimplemented. Discussions involved multiple stakeholders, including the BBMB, BWSSB, Revenue department, and Urban Development department.

NEERI's short-term recommendations include halting illegal developments, preventing drainage and wastewater flow into lakes, regular silt removal, canal clearing, fencing and others.

Biking to spread the message on road safety

CII-Young Indians(Yi) Bengaluru organised a bike rally aimed at promoting safer and more inclusive roads in Namma Bengaluru on Sunday. Teaming up with the Bengaluru Traffic Warden Association, prominent biker groups, Yi-Yuva colleges, and its own members, the event garnered widespread participation from the community.

The rally was flagged off by Murallidhara CV, Chief of the Bengaluru Traffic Warden Association. Commencing its journey from Vidhana Soudha and traversing through prominent locations across the city, the rally had maximum visibility and engagement. Over 100 bikers enthusiastically joined the rally, lending their voices to the cause of road safety.

Following the rally, Mohammed Zahrin Bin Aziz, Chair Young Indians Bangalore, spoke about the need to raise awareness about road safety. The rally was organised to communicate the urgent need to imparting right behaviours in the communities around us and the importance of change makers to partner together to drive such initiatives in the city.

Murallidhara commended Yi's efforts and stressed the significance of continued collaboration and initiatives to promote the cause of road safety.

Why Swachh Survekshan results remind us of Board Exams

DIVYA TIWARI
BY INVITATION
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

Gone are the days when 80% marks in Board exams assured us a seat in a good college and honour amongst family and friends, today 90% is a disappointing score for most bright students. The recently declared Swachh Survekshan (SS) results must be giving a similar sense of disappointment to most cities. Lucknow that scored 96% marks in Door-to-door collection, 92% in Source Segregation and 99% in Clean residential and market areas was ranked 44 while Bangalore that scored 97% in Door-to-door collection, 99% in Source Segregation, 81% in Waste Processing was ranked a lowly 125!

When launched in 2016, many of us were quite enthused by SS, but soon it was competition between select experts and consultants who were collating data and proof (often out of thin air) by taking advantage of the inherent complexities associated with an exercise of this scale. For example, during SS 2022, 5.5 lakhs documents were assessed, 1.14 crore citizen feedback recorded, 4.77 lakhs citizen validation undertaken, 17.24 lakh data points collected, 23.38 lakh photos and videos collected as evidence and 2.12 lakhs locations were visited by the assessors!

That said, SS has made some positive impact, most importantly it brought cleanliness in focus. It also injected a sense of pride amongst the citizen of at least the topped ranked cities, a very important element for bringing about the much-needed behavioural change. There has been a noticeable improvement in waste collection and its monitoring, condition of the sanitation staff, vehicles and other infrastructure. The SS parameters have consistently progressed towards giving higher weightage to a sustainable approach of resource recovery instead of large-scale thermal incineration.

However, achieving sustainability in waste management is difficult, most advanced nations are also struggling on this front. The biggest challenge is monitoring lakhs of waste generators, daily, to ensure they segregate their waste and do not dump it. Processing this huge amount of waste is the second biggest challenge, getting land and operating these facilities in a hygienic manner in a densely populated nation like ours is not easy.

> **The biggest challenge is monitoring lakhs of waste generators, daily, to ensure they segregate their waste and do not dump it**

How Swachh Survekshan can contribute towards addressing these two challenges? Firstly, waste management monitoring system needs to improve, the data must be picked up directly from the regular monitoring system instead of separate submissions drafted by consultants. The parameters must be aligned with the actual monitoring system and for that it is important that the parameters do not change every year (weightage can change). The reality is that over 90% of the waste collected is mixed and so almost of all it is dumped. Just keeping focus on these two for the next decade would help turn things around. The performance appraisal of the staff and officials of the Municipality must also be based on the data from this monitoring system.

Monitoring and tracking source segregation is very expensive, hence heavy fines for waste dumping and mixing can act as effective deterrents. Further, by ensuring that the entire waste management system operates on a pull model instead of push model will also reduce the monitoring burden. The payment to collectors and processors should be tied to the output produced (Compost, bio-gas, sorted dry waste etc.). This will require monitoring at the output level alone and not the entire supply chain. Currently in SS the Waste Processed % is assessed basis stated processing capacity, electricity bill, visual inspection of the facilities and also sale receipts but it is not a well-defined process with loop holes galore. However, if the payment for collection and processing services is tied to the output, no other parameters need to be tracked.

Swachh Survekshan can become a very important tool for driving change on the ground and for that it is important that the participating cities do not treat it like a board exam where the aim is to deliver your best on paper, on the exam day. SS should be fashioned like a continuous evaluation and development exercise that leads to a true transformation.

The author is Principal Scientist and Advisor, Saahas
(With inputs from Angad Khanna, Waste Warriors)

12% rise in electric two-wheeler sale in Karnataka

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our team, there is apprehension and fear among potential purchasers over the adoption of electric two-wheelers.

This skepticism is mostly owing to restricted range and higher purchasing price. However, a lack of charging infrastructure has no direct impact on adoption as smaller battery sizes," said professor Ashish Verma, convenor of Sustainable Transportation Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Proponents of EVs stressed that since the battery is the most expensive component of an electric vehicle, accounting for roughly 40% of the total cost, policies and provisions should be made to facilitate purchase of electric two-wheelers without a battery, which can be used as a subscription-based service.

"Subscription-based battery services have emerged as a potential solution to address the challenges associated with electric vehicle battery ownership, such as high upfront costs and battery degradation over time. This concept separates the cost of the battery from the overall vehicle price, thereby reducing the initial investment required to own an electric vehicle.

Instead of purchasing the battery outright, electric vehicle owners can opt for a subscription model where they pay a periodic fee to lease the battery from a service provider," added professor Verma.

Experts further highlighted the need for awareness campaigns around electric two-wheelers, their environmentally friendly nature alongside tackling issues of negative perception related to total cost and safety.

They said the marketing strategies should emphasise the total cost of ownership over the lifetime of the two-wheelers.

Moreover, these vehicles have safety concerns owing to various instances of electric vehicles catching fire. The awareness campaigns should be designed around these issues.

BM Education

Lecturers oppose change in faculty ratio

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The recent decision by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to reduce the faculty-student ratio in Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses has sparked discontent among faculty members in the state. The ratio, reduced from 1:20 to 1:25 for the upcoming academic year, has raised concerns about potential job losses and a decline in the quality of education.

Expressing their dissatisfaction, faculty members stressed that the earlier ratio of 1:20 provided in the approval process handbook 2023-25 should be maintained. A college professor who didn't want to be named said, "We condemn the move. This reduction in ratio would lead to job losses for many faculty members, adversely affecting the overall quality of education." The faculty highlighted their ongoing struggles, particularly those who lost their jobs during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. Reducing the faculty-student ratio, they argue, will increase their challenges. Many faculty members in private instittutions are questioned the rationale behind changing the ratio for management courses when other programs such as engineering and technology maintain a 1:20 ratio.

In a separate development, arts and science colleges are opposing AICTE's decision to permit engineering colleges to offer BBA and BCA programs from 2024-25. The move could impact enrollment in arts and science colleges. AICTE's decision requires arts and science colleges offering these courses to obtain council approval for the academic year 2024-25 and allows engineering colleges to run these programs. Officials said that while there is acknowledgment of the need to standardise courses, concerns are raised about the potential affordability issues for economically disadvantaged students if engineering colleges are permitted to offer these programs. AICTE has also announced plans to introduce a new model curriculum, textbooks for undergraduate programs, and prescribe a minimum number of teachers and classrooms.

Your Connect

real estate

GOA PROPERTIES

LAND FOR SALE

POSSIBLY the most scenic land in Goa: 60,000 sq. yards, 600 meters of perpetual sea view, height of 50 meters, 100% out of CRZ. Perfect opportunity for an established builder to enter Goa market for a JV with low capex. Contact vibhav6000@gmail.com

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

GENERAL

WANTED

CORDIAL HIGH SCHOOL
8th Main, Vijayanagar West, Nagarbhavi Main Road, Bangalore - 40.
Required Experienced Teachers to teach Karnataka State Syllabus..

- **ASSISTANT HEADMISTRESS / ADMINISTRATOR :** Minimum 8 to 10 years experience, preferably with graduation in M.A, M.Sc, M.Ed.
- **ENGLISH, MATHS , SCIENCE, SOCIAL TEACHERS** with B.Ed for high school with minimum 3years experience.
- **ACCOUNTANT :** B.Com, 2 to 3 yrs. School exp.

Send resumes to the following number via WhatsApp.
9480420265

TEACHER

AADYA ACADEMY
THE WORLD SCHOOL
(ICSE Syllabus, Day School)
Kannur, Bangalore–560077.
:Requires:
Primary Teachers
9663804909 / 8904732123
candidates can send resume to
careersaadyaacademy@gmail.com
Excellent remuneration with Good Working & Growth Opportunities.
(Female candidates only)

ADMINISTRATION

SENIOR / TOP MANAGERS

CAREER Offer for CA's, Top Entrepreneurs, HNI's Doctors, Rtd State/Central Govt & NRI's. Venue:HYATT CENTRIC, Next to LIDO Mall. M.G. RD, B'lore. on Sat 17th Feb Call 9731888752

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

CUSTOMER Relationship Manager !! Reputed Medical Device Manufacturing company in Peenya Industrial area Hiring Telesales, preffered age below 30years, salary 16,000 to 17,000 ESI & PF also Applicable Office Time : 9am to 5:30pm Responsible for Managing Customer Queries Communicating With Customers, Ensuring Sales Growth, Payment follow up Updating dispatch details to Customer, Communicating regarding order to customer must speak Kannada, English, Hindi Contact: 9945585055, mail@orionsutures.com

OTHER VACANCIES

PART TIME JOBS

GLOBAL International India's No1 Registered Club Part-Time Job M/F Daily Income 10,000 to 15,000 PF & Esi WhtsApp 9886959077/7022770604

PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY for Retirees/ VRS, & Self Employed by a Reputed MNC in Bangalore. Call: 99027 49632/8861791147

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Irshad Ahmed Meermohammed Inamdar R/o Flat No 204 A B N Ataraxia, 6th Cross A P J Kalam Road Umar Nagar, Behind Masjid E Saoood, Govindpur, Bengaluru - 560045 have changed my minor daughter's name from Inaya Farwa to Inaya Farwa Inamdar.

I, Prathima Madhu, D/o. Chandraiah. M, R/a. No. 29, 1st Floor, 8th Main Road, Jnanajyothi Nagar, Srirama Layout, Bangalore- 560056. I have changed my name to PRATHIMA. C. Vide affidavit date: 09.02.2024. Sworn before notary: Devaraja E.

I Rajesh. K S/O, Prabhakaran R/o G-riviera, No. G1, 11th Cross, Ngef Layout, Nagarabhavi, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560072 have changed my name to Rajesh Austin.

I, SHWETA, W/o, Suhas Kaundinya Rajanna, R/at, No.107, Vandana Sai Nivas Apt, Nyanappanahalli Road, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076, have changed my name to SHWETA DATTATREYA KALYANKAR, vide Affidavit dated:13.02.2024, sworn before Notary, V. Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

I, Roshan Victor Dsouza R/o E904 I Towers Exente Service Road, Kamadhenu Layout, Electronics City Bengaluru 560100 have changed my minor daughter's name from Renee D'souza to Renee Dsouza for all purposes.

I, Tanishq Skanda S/o K Gopinath R/o No.768/19, 3rd main, 4th block, Tagore school, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 560010 have changed my name to Tanishq Skanda G, Affidavit Dt.06/02/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Niraimathy Rajappan W/o Rajendran MKS R/o Old.76 new no.22, 3rd Flr, 1st main, 8th cross, Chamarajpet, B'luru 560018 have changed my name to Niraimathy Rajendran, affidavit Dt.10/02/2024 notary Bharati Patil, B'luru

I Pavithra S D/O, Srinivasan R/o #283, 7th Cross, 1st Main, Mysore Road, Maruthi Naga/bapugi Nagara, Bangalore South , Bangalore - 560026 Karnataka have changed my name to Janaki Ravilla J .

I, B S Venkatesh R/o #13, 4th Cross, 7th Main Rd, 80ft Road, Venkatamma Layout, Subb - anna Palya, B'lore 560033 have changed my minor daughter's name from Batchutriya to Batchu Triya for all purposes

I, Noor Ahamed Sharieff S/o Faqrideen Sharieff R/o Chintamani taluk Upparepete Chikkaballapur -563125 have changed my name to Noor Ahmed Sharieff.

I, ARAIZ ALI SHARIFF, R/at No 303, 4th D Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to AARAIZ ALI SHARIFF, For All Purposes.

I, ARIANNA SHARIFF, R/at No 303, 4th D Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to AIRA SHARIFF, For All Purposes.

I Jayakumar J S/O, Jayaram S T R/o #10, Jj Crown , 13 Main, Binnylayout, Vijayanagar, Banagalore 560040 have changed my name to Jaya Kumar Jayaram.

I Ajanta Vendon, residing in 3201,Casa Serinita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Ajunthaa Venddon for all purposes.

I, snehil Jayaswal,R/O wing 5-404 , ark cloud city,hopefarm, Bangalore -560067 , have changed my son's name(minor) from hitansh to hitansh snehil Jayaswal.

I, Vridhoo Vendon,residing in 3201, Casa Serinita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Vridhu Venddon for all purposes.

I Seema M I W/O, Saifulla Mohamed Ansar R/o 5/4-2, Inclover Poise, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Seema Manna Ismail.

I Saifulla Mohammed Ansar S/O, Mohamed Meera R/o 5/4-2, Inclover Poise, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Saifulla Mohamed Ansar.

I Oveeya Vendon, residing in 3201, Casa Serinita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Oveea Venddon for all purposes

I, ILHAAN SHARIFF, R/at No 303, 4th D Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to ILLHAN SHARIFF For All Purposes.

THE TIMES GROUP

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

Parking lot at revenue dept HQ 'misused'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Sudhakar got the contract to collect parking fees for two years from 2017 to May 30, 2019. Later, the contract was extended for two months. Thereafter, the contract was once again extended for five months till December 31, 2019. The contractor was paying Rs 1,35,000 per month to the revenue department as per the parking licence issued to him on May 27, 2017.

However, the revenue department failed either to engage a new contractor or renew the parking licence issued to Sudhakar.

Meanwhile, Anil Kumar, manager, Kandaya Bhavan, said he has already informed higher authorities about the need to float a tender inviting bidders for collecting parking fees.

When contacted, K Rangaswamy, project director at revenue department said a tender was floated twice and one contractor evinced interest but failed to pay the deposit on time.

"The amount for the parking lot licence is fixed at Rs 39 lakh. As the tender process began, the contractor withdrew stating that it would be difficult to pay Rs 39 lakh,'' said Rangaswamy.

According to Rangaswamy, the parking lot at Kandaya Bhavan can accommodate 67 four-wheelers and 40 two-wheelers.

"Among the 67 four-wheelers, around 30 four-wheelers are government vehicles. The contractor should not collect parking fees for those vehicles. Among the 40 two-wheelers, some of them belong to employees working at Kandaya Bhavan complex and they can park vehicles without paying parking fees. All these years, except the lockdown period, the contractor has been paying Rs 1,35,000 to the revenue department. Now, we have stopped collecting the parking fees till the tender process is completed,'' said Rangaswamy.

However, Marathe said he found irregularities at the parking lot. "I met the revenue officials seeking details of the parking licence issued to the contractor. Later, I lodged a complaint with Halasuru Gate police seeking action against those responsible for the loss to the revenue department,'' he said.

ATTACHED HEREWITH

Here's how deep-rooted emotional triggers impact attachment styles

While likes and matches make sense when you're playing the dating game, there's no real algorithm as to why people choose, and continue to stay in relationships. One lens to view it through, is the attachment theory lens. The science behind attachments has been studied by psychologists Bowlby and Ainsworth, who discovered that the degree to which infants get their emotional and physical needs met by their parents or early attachment figures, serve as emotional triggers, significantly impacting their attachment patterns across their lifetime.

Aanandita Vaghani of UnFix helps us understand more about this.

Secure Attachment

Living by an open book and open door policy, secure individuals are not particularly fearful to commit a hundred percent. Their ego is balanced out, and they are not afraid to reach out to partners in times of need. Their relationships therefore usually foster equality, mutually shared care and affection, with space for both individuals to exist as their own entity. Some emotional triggers in their childhood could have involved parents as a stable, dependable base from which to form secure affection, yet encouragement to be their own person and fostering a risk-taking outlook which they then carry to adult relationships. This on the whole, results in secure attachment.

Anxious Attachment

Always hungry, and never satiated, anxiously attached people are always seeking for new forms of validation from their partners. They never are really satisfied with the care their partner provides, because of a deep seated belief of not being good enough. This leads to the fear of abandonment, and an overcompensation strategy of being clingy, resulting in anxious attachment. Their childhood could have been characterised by caretakers who were unpredictable in response to their distress, an emotional trigger they carry to their adult relationships.

Insecure Ambivalent Attachment

Commitment phobes and emotionally enigmatic individuals fit in here. Ambivalently attached individuals are afraid of emotional distance as much as emotional proximity. Their view of relationships is that they need to be close to get their emotional needs met, but are afraid of getting burnt in the feelings fire if they get too close. Although they look to their partner when they feel a sense of rejection, they also feel claustrophobic with intimacy, and thus relate in a disorganised fashion to their partners. Early experiences they've shared with caregivers tend to have been unpredictable. Thus, they crave a sense of predictability, which they fulfill by rejecting before they get rejected.

Insecure Avoidant Attachment

No man is an island, but insecurely-avoidant individuals sure pretend like it. These individuals will emotionally distance themselves from their partner, and have an illusion that they don't depend on anyone to satisfy their emotional needs. They hide under work and other tasks to create an emotional distance between themselves and loved ones and essentially put up a false pretense of not caring. Rather than reaching out to loved ones when the tide is high, they would rather rely on unhealthy soothing patterns that might sometimes include substances or food. As children, insecurely avoidant individuals have consistently not gotten their needs met by their caregivers, and consciously shutting down has been an effective strategy to avoid getting hurt when these needs are not fulfilled.

Although early attachment styles do often predict your way of relating to your near and dear in your adult life, this is certainly not set in stone. Looking at your attachment styles with a self-compassionate lens can help you be aware of why you react to people and situations the way you do. And that's a pretty good start! Once revealed, you can work on your defenses and attitudes either independently or with the support of a therapist to rewire how you relate.

— Kalwyna Rathod, Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

22 crore Indians aged between 45-59 affected by frailty: Study

A whopping 22-crore middle-aged people (or 16.2 per cent of the population) in the age group of 45-59 in India are affected by frailty, according to a global study.

Frailty refers to a state of weakness in the human body that makes people prone to diseases, injuries and falls. Although frailty is commonly associated with older people, it may not be limited to a particular age group.

The study, published in BMJ Open, showed the rising prevalence of frailty among middle Indians. It showed that women are twice as likely as men to be frail. Having lower education, and using tobacco were also found to be associated with frailty among Indians.

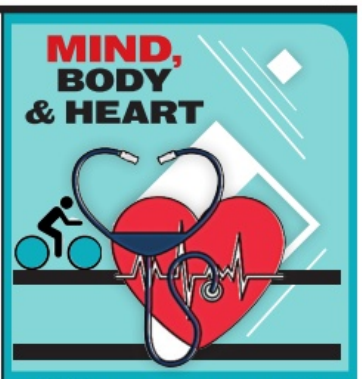
The team of researchers from The George Institute for Global Health (Delhi and Australia), and from the UK, also showed that there are nearly 60 crore (43.2 per cent) frail adults aged over 60.

They found that frailty results in more hospitalisations, falls, and poor cognition in all adults, irrespective of age and sex. The outcomes are worse in women compared to men, although not statistically proven. Surprisingly, frailty was found to be more common in people who spent more

money on their daily needs.

"We think this might be because frail people often have more healthcare expenses, which makes them spend more on daily needs. However, when we looked at their household income instead of spending, we did not see any clear connection," Vivekanand Jha, Executive Director at The George Institute, told IANS.

"India has a large ageing population, and the healthcare system is not yet well-coordinated. Knowing about the prevalence of frailty in the country will help in providing the right care and support for those who need it most," Dr Jha emphasised. Previous studies on frailty have primarily focused on high-income countries. Since frailty is more common in women, strategies to address it should consider gender differences. **— IANS**



All you need to know about...

Pregnancy complications

Most common problems
Two of the most frequent pregnancy problems are hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) and gestational diabetes (GDM), which increase pregnant people's risk of developing cardiovascular disease later in life.

Cardiovascular health of child may be impacted
A new study to be presented at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine's (SMFM) annual meeting, The Pregnancy Meeting, suggested that pregnancy problems may lead to poor cardiovascular health for the kid.

Connection studied
In a secondary analysis of 3,317 maternal-child pairings from the prospective Hyperglycemia and Adverse Pregnancy Outcome Follow-up Study (HAPO FUS), researchers examined whether there was a connection between hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and gestational diabetes and a child's cardiovascular health.

High BP, diabetes
On the maternal side, 8% developed high blood pressure during pregnancy, 12% developed gestational diabetes, and 3% developed both high blood pressure and diabetes. Researchers then examined the child's cardiovascular health 10 to 14 years after delivery. Cardiovascular health was evaluated based on four metrics: body mass index, blood pressure, total cholesterol, and glucose level. Pediatric guidelines categorised each metric as ideal, intermediate, or poor.

Not at same point
"These findings are important because traditionally, the thinking has been that a person's risk of developing cardiovascular disease starts after birth -- that everyone starts at the same point," said the study's lead author Kartik K Venkatesh. **—ANI**

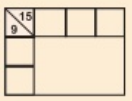
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

3 times the first of 3 consecutive odd integers is 3 more than twice the third. The third integer is?

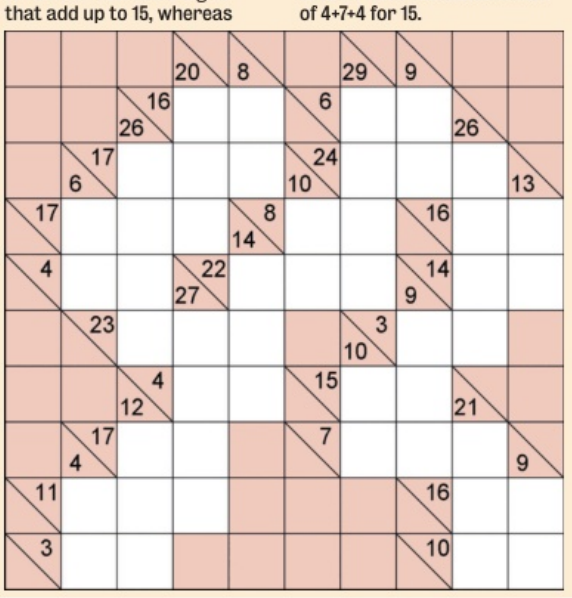
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

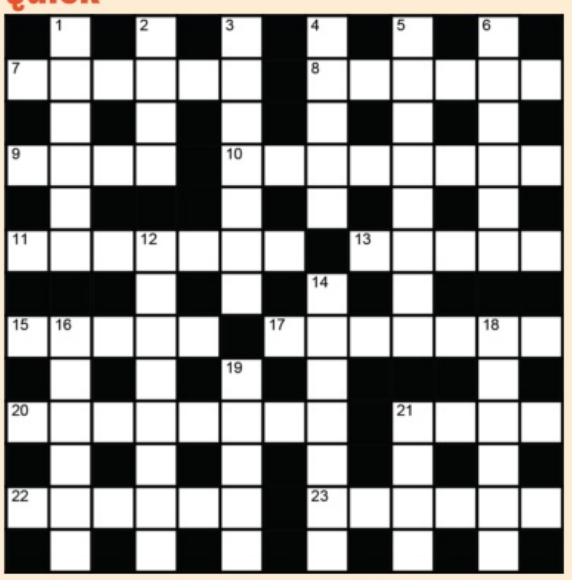


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Short Spanish jacket (6)
8 Charm; talisman (6)
9 The common potato (4)
10 Great Greek warrior (8)
11 Facing or defying (7)
13 Express in speech (5)
15 Marks; blemishes (5)
17 Fitted closely together (7)
20 Priestly candidate (8)
21 Give food to (4)
22 Collapse (4,2)
23 Renounce or repudiate on oath (6)

DOWN

1 Ex-Windies skipper Carl ___ (6)
2 Tear apart (4)
3 Temple town in Uttara Kannada (7)
4 Pledges or promises (5)
5 A single dot as punctuation (4,4)
6 Proper or seemly (6)
12 Highest points (8)
14 Structured poem (7)
16 Edible grain (6)
18 Three ___ : hip, hip, hurrah (6)
19 Quite shrewd (5)
21 Japanese mountain (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS I

MAI LY WDIZE XMVOMJVZ KAZSLYZVQ JZSMOYZ LI LYE'I M YZEYLJVZ GMQ IW NMRZ NWEZQ.

Linemaro

Do you have a Band-Aid? Because I just scraped my knee falling for you.

Mindchow

A man with money is no match against a man on a mission.

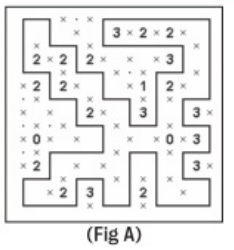
Joke of the day

Q: How many engineers does it take to change a light bulb?
A: Hell, you need 250 just to lobby for the research grant.

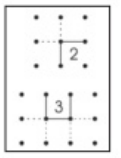
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

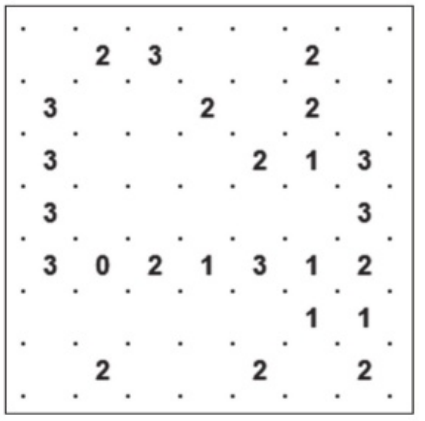


(Fig B) Not Allowed

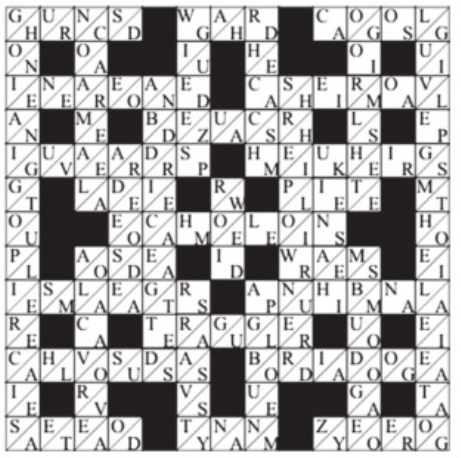
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 D	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

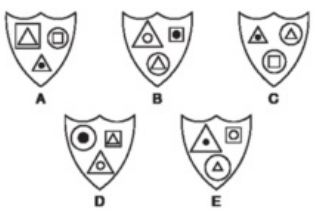
1 C desk; 6 No axe;
7 Demur; 8 A due I;
9 Lamer

DOWN

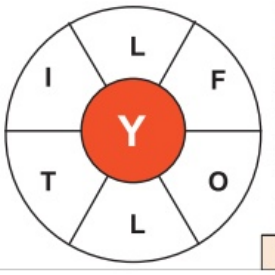
1 Drama; 2 Due XE;
3 Cairo; 4 N leek;
5 Mused

Mensapuzzle

Which shield on the right has most in common with the shield below?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2			6		9			4
		9				6		
6			4		7			9
	3	1		2		9	5	
		5				3		
	7	6		8		2	4	
7			2		3			8
		3				7		
5			9		1			3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17
2 6 6 7

Medium = 24
2 7 8 8

Hard = 1
5 9 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

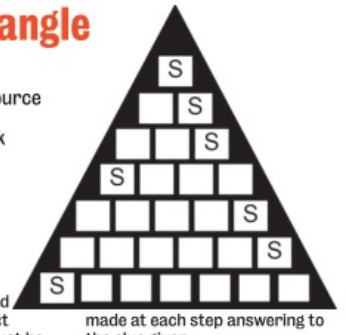
Differences: 1. Bush is missing. 2. Number is different. 3. Girl's hair is different. 4. Arm is higher. 5. Tree trunk is not as wide. 6. Sidewalk is wider.

Riddler

Which former Wimbledon champion might have a BROKE SCRIBE?

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Natural power source
4 Wise guy
5 Blows one's stack
6 Bets
7 Strut



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

STAY OUT OF TOWN! THE PALEFACE WAYS ARE NOT FOR US!
THERE'S NOTHING THERE BUT DRINKING, GAMBLING, DANCING WITH WILD WOMEN...
11-8
Yates/Carson
WAIT A MINUTE - I'LL GO WITH YOU!
YOOP

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I LIKE GOING ANTIQUING BECAUSE I SPECIALIZE IN FAMILY HEIRLOOMS.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TREASURES YOU MIGHT FIND!
LIKE THIS CLOWN!
I DON'T THINK I'D CALL THIS A TREASURE...
ONE MAN'S HAUNTED CLOWN DOLL IS ANOTHER MAN'S HYPER-FIXATION.
@GOCOMICS.COM/JBARTOSTHECITY

Crankshaft

THESE DON'T TASTE LIKE YOUR USUAL RUM BALLS, LILLIAN!
I KNOW... I MADE THEM WITH HARD LEMONADE INSTEAD.
WHAT DID YOU MAKE THE CRANBERRY RELISH WITH... PEAS?
11-22
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy and chronic health issues may be cured now. Kids' health may be ok now. Money that was stuck somewhere is likely to be recovered now. You may also repay a debt.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. That may give you peace of mind. You may become decisive, so you may grab an opportunity without a second thought. Past karma may help you stand up to any situation and it will show you the right path. Love birds may enjoy happy moments. Job aspirants are likely to get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be dull. Detachment from responsibilities may make you upset. You may not be able to fulfil your commitments, which may affect your prestige. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips, which may give you benefits in the near future. Your subordinate staff may help you complete an important project. Disputes with the siblings may raise their head.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. You will plan to invest more capital into family business, which may increase your family business in the near future. You may expect to get some rewards on behalf of your social services. You may expect to hear some good news in your family, which may create a joyful environment in the family. You may also enjoy some delicious food.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel happy and your health is also good, which may give you inner strength and self confidence. Your subconscious may not allow you to manipulate a messy task. Your social prestige is likely to be increased. With the help of your good karma, destiny may help you to start some innovative task.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be unhappy and disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance; otherwise you may face some losses due to your harsh speaking while you are talking with anyone. You are advised to avoid long trips and avoid speedy driving. You should keep yourself away from bay areas or oceans.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, there may be peace in the mind. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. You may expect to get ample opportunities at work; you may notice some progress in your life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be able to implement your plans with the help of your strong network at work. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your hard work. There may be good understanding between you and your spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your hard work.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Last days' messy situation is under control. You may initiate works that have been postponed. With blessings, you may get rewarded for your hard work. There are some gains in your business which may boost your financial health. You may expect some unexpected opportunity, which may increase your business or work. You may also plan for an overseas trip.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may not feel well and might have health issues. This may affect your professional and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to your spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and to work hard in their studies instead.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon and may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovation with the help of your business partner, which may increase your business in the near future.

KIDZONE

Sneha K Srivatsa, 10 Years, Sri Kumaran Children's Home

Rocky D Abraham, 9 Years, Vincent Pallotti School

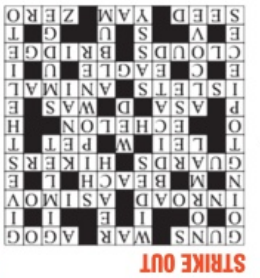
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
3x=3+2(x+4)
x=11 first odd integer
third odd integer
11+4 = 15

BULL'S EYE
filly, folly, illy, LOFTILY, lofty, olly

STRIKE OUT



FAST FIVE

D	E	C	K	S
A	X	O	N	E
M	U	R	E	D
A	D	I	E	U
R	E	A	L	M

RIDDLER
Boris Becker

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
E: It contains a triangle in a square and a circle in a circle, a circle and a black dot in a triangle

QUOTE UNCODE
Art is often valuable precisely because it isn't a sensible way to make money.

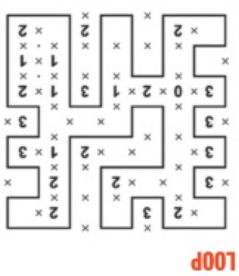
SUDOKU

2	1	7	6	5	9	8	3	4
3	4	9	8	1	2	6	7	5
6	5	8	4	3	7	1	2	9
8	3	1	7	2	4	9	5	6
9	7	6	1	9	6	3	8	7
4	2	5	9	6	3	8	7	1
7	9	4	2	6	3	5	1	8
1	6	3	5	4	8	7	9	2
5	8	2	9	7	1	4	6	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Gas, Sage, Rages, Wagers, Swagger.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 - 2 + 7 + 6 = 17
Medium
8 - 7 + 2 x 8 = 24
Hard
9 + 5 - 9 / 5 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 033 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Best actress
Actress Seema Biswas, who has been feted with the Best Actress award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival for her work in 'Sir Madam Sarpanch', is chuffed with the honour

BangaloreMirror | 12
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Star presenter

Deepika Padukone expresses gratitude for being chosen as BAFTA Award presenter

Actor Deepika Padukone is currently on cloud nine as she has been chosen as a presenter at the upcoming BAFTA Awards.

The list also includes former England football star David Beckham, singer Dua Lipa, Cate Blanchett, Adjoa Andoh of 'Bridgerton' fame, 'Wonka' Oompa Loompa Hugh Grant and 'Emily in Paris's' Lily Collins.

Taking to Instagram, Deepika shared a post on her stories that she captioned, "Gratitude."

The 77th BAFTA Film Awards ceremony, set to take place Sunday, February 18, at London's Royal Festival Hall, which serves as the ceremony's venue for the second year in a row after several years at Royal Albert Hall. In India, the awards will be streaming live on Lionsgate Play.

Attendees will include 'Saltburn' star Barry Keoghan, 'Maestro' actors Bradley Cooper and Carey Mulligan, 'Oppenheimer' lead Cillian Murphy and directors Greta Gerwig, Christopher Nolan, Celine Song and Yorgos Lanthimos, as per Variety.Last year, Deepika made India proud as she was one of the presenters at the Oscars 2023. On the film front, Deepika was recently seen in the aerial action thriller film 'Fighter' opposite Hrithik Roshan.

Helmed by Siddharth Anand, the film also starred Anil Kapoor, Karan Singh Grover and Akshay Oberoi in pivotal roles and received good responses from the audience.

She will be next seen in the sci-fi action thriller film 'Kalki 2898 AD' alongside south actor Prabhas. Helmed by Nag Ashwin the film also stars Amitabh Bachchan and will hit the theatres on May 9, 2024. —ANI

It's in the script

Actress Yami Gautam Dhar, who is gearing up for her upcoming action-political-drama film 'Article 370', has shared that as an actor, she enjoys being part of the scripting process.

For an actor, being involved in the film right from the scripting stage, greatly helps them to understand the evolution and arc of their character. The upcoming film, which has been co-written and produced by her husband Aditya Dhar, sees the actress in the role of an intelligence officer. The film follows the events in the lead up to the abrogation of the contentious Article 370 of the Indian constitution. Elaborating on this, Yami said: "I am an actor who enjoys being a part of the scripting process. Filmmaking is a collaboration of different creative minds coming together to create something as one. Working in 'Article 370' has been one of the most satisfying experiences." —IANS

A sustainable knot

Actor Rakul Preet Singh and producer Jackky Bhagnani who are set to tie the knot on February 21 in Goa are going all out to ensure they have a eco-friendly wedding, according to sources.

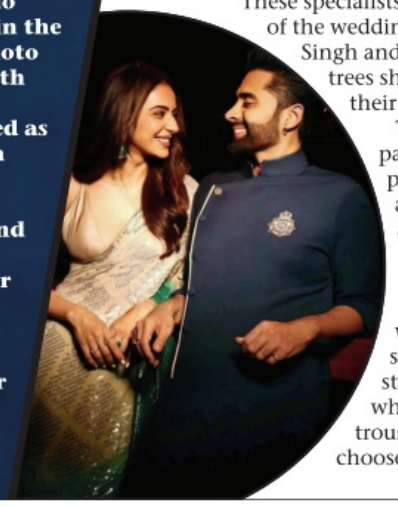
Reportedly, the couple's 'green' wedding preparations include digital invites to save paper waste, a prohibition on fireworks, and a pledge to plant trees to offset their event's carbon footprint.

The wedding will last three days, beginning on February 19, with the major ceremony on February 21. The pair, according to sources, has hired carbon footprint specialists to guarantee that their big day is environmentally friendly.

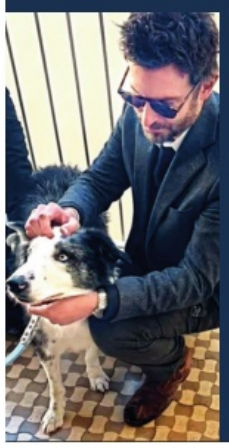
These specialists will evaluate the impact of the wedding celebrations and advise Singh and Bhagnani on how many trees should be planted to offset their carbon footprint.

The couple intends to participate in the tree-planting effort shortly after their wedding vows are exchanged.

Fans have been eagerly waiting for the couple's choice of wedding attire with speculations on which stunning Indian designer who are known for their trousseau magic they would choose from. —ANI



Woof, what star power at luncheon



Messi, the canine star of 'Anatomy of a Fall,' who played Snoop in the Oscar-nominated film, travelled from France to Los Angeles on Monday to attend the Academy Award Nominees Luncheon, his trainer Laura Martin Contini was cited by the People magazine.

Messi was popular with other celebrities, including Ryan Gosling, who was captured on film waving to the dog. NEON, who distributed the film in the US, also released a photo of Bradley Cooper with Messi. The talented canine has been hailed as the star of the French courtroom drama. Justine Triet's film, which she directed and co-wrote, revolves around Sandra Voyter (Huller), a German novelist who is on trial in France for allegedly pushing her husband Samuel (Samuel Theis) to death. —ANI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

25th movie

The title of Vinod Prabhakar's 25th movie was unveiled by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara at a function recently. The title of the movie is Balaramana Dinagalu and the movie is directed by Aa Dinagalu fame KM Chaitanya. Padmavathi Jayaram and Shreyas are bankrolling Balaramana Dinagalu under the Padmavathi Films banner.

Conveying his best wishes to producer Shreyas, Parameshwara said, "Movies made a decade ago used to convey a message to society. Those movies have good moral values. Now, the number of commercial movies has increased. Producers have to make money but I want them to make such movies that convey a message to the public," he said.

Shreyas said his dream was to bankroll a movie. "I thank my parents and brother for supporting me. Vinod Prabhakar is my teacher in Sandalwood," said Shreyas.

Audio release

Prominent personalities of Sandalwood gathered at MMB Legacy to launch the soundtrack of the film Sanju. Kannada movie directors Yogaraj Bhat, Mata Guruprasad, Guru Deshpande, Ravi R Girani, and P Murthy, Karnataka Film Chambers of Film Industry president NM Suresh, Kannada Film Producers' Association president Umesh Banakar have attended the audio launch of Sanju and wished everyone good luck.

Director Yathiraj said the movie has the tagline – Agamya Payaniga. "The film revolves around a bus station. The protagonist represents the public. He has to face problems fighting on behalf of the public. The female lead also faces problems for being sincere. I tried to show how decisions taken in haste can have an adverse impact," said Yathiraj.

The director said the shooting of the movie was held in and around Madikeri. Manvith, who plays the lead in the movie, said that he is the son of a farmer. "I thank director Yathiraj for his guidance," Manvith said.

Shravya, the daughter of veteran director Ompraksh Rao, plays the female lead.